



# QUESTIONNAIRE & RESPONSES

FIRST NAME:  LAST NAME:   
SEEKING TO BE ELECTED TO:

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

- 1. While in office, what will be your top priorities?** My top priorities, for all residents, are ensuring their safety, security, and a high quality of life. A high quality of life includes increasing and improving recreational programs and facilities for all ages, preserving our proud history, protecting the environment, and keeping the city beautiful. Additionally, the city needs a new police station and Emergency Operations Center. We also need to reduce the amount of wastewater effluent being discharged into the Halifax Intracoastal Waterway.
- 2. What influenced you to run for office?** As a native of Daytona Beach, a graduate of Seabreeze High School, and a Volusia teacher and principal for 35 years, my roots run deep in Ormond Beach and dedication to serve the public remains high.
- 3. Who do you look to for advice and consult when making decisions that will affect the public?** As a member of the Ormond Beach Chamber of Commerce and Ormond Main Street, I often seek their members opinions, as well as reactions from social media sites.

## GOVERNMENT / BUSINESS REGULATIONS

- 1. What are your thoughts on government's involvement with regulations for businesses?** One of Government's main responsibilities is to protect the public. Therefore, ordinances should be adopted which protect the public from unscrupulous business operations. At the same time, government should not pass burdensome ordinances which make open and running a legitimate businesses difficult.
- 2. Where do you see yourself on taxes and fees? What is your opinion on the current structure?** In the city of Ormond Beach, I support our current structure of taxes and fees. I support keeping our fees in line with most other municipalities. Again, I look to the Chamber for advice on business fees. In regard to taxes, Ormond Beach continues to have one of the lowest rates in Volusia County.
- 3. Do you believe businesses play a pivotal role in our community?** Yes! Yes! Yes! We need a mix of local and corporate business to bring energy in to our community and to keep our community thriving as a great place to live and work.
- 4. What role do you see for yourself in helping to grow businesses of all sizes in your position?** As the mayor of Ormond Beach, I want to champion Ormond Beach and all of Volusia County to help recruit additional businesses. In addition, I want to help existing businesses expand and make sure city government does not have rules and regulations which make it difficult for local owners to grow their market share.
- 5. What are the most pressing issues in the office you are seeking as it relates to local businesses?** Our local business economy is doing well in Ormond Beach. Some sites have high lease rates or inadequate parking, however, on the whole the city commission has not heard many complaints from local business owners. I will continue to work with the local chambers of commerce and Ormond Main Street to attract business to open in our area.
- 6. What does growth mean to you as it relates to business?** Growing a business means selling more products or services and being able to profit from the expansion. The more a business grows the greater impact it has on our local economy, which has a positive impact on our community.
- 7. What have you done to enhance the business community in your area?** The Ormond Beach City Commission is very receptive to concerns from business owners and the Ormond Beach Chamber of Commerce. Regardless of the need, the city responds quickly to make infrastructure repairs or improvements. For example, a new parking area was recently added to help the businesses located on Granda Boulevard between Beach Street and US 1. In addition, the city is working in conjunction with the DOT is working to beautify and slow the traffic in the downtown area. Personally, I attend new business ribbon cuttings regularly and publicize my support for local restaurants and businesses on social media.

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8. **What are your thoughts on tax structures for local businesses?** My thoughts on taxes is every for profit business needs to pay its fair share of taxes. By comparison with others, Florida is a low tax state. Many business owners set up S or LLC corporations which shield them from paying any state income tax and allows the personal income to pass through to them. The current tax structure appears to be working well.

#### RESILIENCY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

1. **Given our geographical area, what do you believe are some best practices for resiliency, and how do you believe our businesses can play a role?** The best resiliency practices include being prepared for flooding, power outages, roadways blocked, wind damage and a reduction of income. Business owners need to learn how to prepare and protect their property before an event and what to do post event to help their employees and the general area around them to rebound quickly. Businesses can play a vital role in educating and informing community members about how to become more resilient.
2. **Climate resiliency is becoming a heated topic of discussion as it relates to our community given the natural events that occurred over the past two years. If elected, how do you see your office assisting to alleviate and reduce some of the detrimental effects of such occurrences?** As I stated in my previous answer, communication and training are key elements to minimizing damage from storms and responding quickly to normalcy. Business owners must be engaged with governmental agencies so we can work together to help all community members.

#### WORKFORCE HOUSING / LIVE LOCAL ACT / EMPLOYMENT

1. **There have been conversations about workforce housing in our area, and the need to keep those that are working in the community, living within the community. Where do you see the need? And what are your thoughts on the Live Local Act?** Many families need help acquiring enough money to make a down payment to finance their first home. The Live Local Act was not supported by the Florida League of Cities or the Florida League of Counties. While the concept of giving a developer tax incentives to build affordable housing units with regular housing units may have seemed like a win - win. I have not seen a project come to fruition in Ormond Beach.
2. **Workforce housing is only a part of the problem. How can we hire the best employees? How do we attract good applicants?** The best people want to work for the best organizations. They want high salaries, good benefits, job security, a safe and congenial work place, opportunities for promotions and advancement, and family friendly leave provisions. Most importantly, employees want to be treated fairly without harassment and discrimination. A company that does all of these things should not have much trouble attracting good applicants.

\*\*\* For State Candidates Only \*\*\*

#### PROPERTY INSURANCE (STATE CANDIDATES ONLY)

1. **Name ways that you believe your office can assist with the cost of property insurance.**
2. **Do you believe current measures taken to lower insurance, such as, reducing frivolous lawsuits, will have a positive impact? If not, how so and how can it be fixed at the local level?**